



Kern Regional Center (KRC)
Self Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2021– 5:00 pm
Teleconference via Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83362444104?pwd=R2pKWGFONzNXc0ZDRkg0bzVQVytvdz09>

Members Present

Rick Wood (Chair)
Mario Espinoza
Nick Schneider

Others Attending

Katie Hornberger
Celia Pinal
Michi Gates
Melanie Waters
Heidi Arntzen
Michele Rodriguez
Alejandra Rivera
Kathryn Mackie
Alejandra Rivera
Yolanda Cruz
Diana
Terrasel Jones
Ana Leheny
Jennifer Rimer
Yesenia Mackie
Karina Proffer
Katie Ramirez
Ana Guerra
Leslie Reynaga
Enrique Roman
Cindy Cox
Omelia Trigueros
Andrea Conetto
Lori Molhook
Veronica
Kristine Khuu

Members absent

Kelly Kulzer-Reyes

- 1) **Call to Order**
5:07 pm (Rick Wood)
- 2) **Establish of Quorum:** *Quorum was established*
- 3) **Additional Agenda Items:** (K. Hornberger) Introducing self. Shared a PowerPoint. Ombudsperson was established and independent and autonomous Office of the Self-Determination Program. The Law established rights and duties for the office. The Ombudsperson is appointed by the DDS Director for a term of 4 years and may be reappointed. The person must have adequate training and experience for the role. Calls to the office are confidential unless

released is agreed to. She goes into the Explanation of the Role of the Ombudsperson. Providing information, investigating complaints, Recommending changes to DDS and the Legislature. She then goes on to reviewing activities like attending stakeholders meetings, investigate systemic matters, share information, and resolve individual matters. She went on to explain what the Ombudsperson does not do like overturn a judicial decision or make a recommendation to a court. She goes on to explain the measures of success by striving to increase the number of people in SDP, reduce the amount of time it takes to enter SDP, and to recommend policy change at the Regional Centers and DDS. She gave information as to how we can get help. Website at office of the Self-Determination Program Ombudsperson – CA Department of Developmental Services, email to SDP.Ombudsperson@DDS.CA.GOV, or call 1-877-658-9731. (C. Pinal) Katie when do you anticipate having your team built? (K. Hornberger) For the actual Ombudsperson because it's a new position in state service, we have to post the position and get feedback, then we can post it for hiring. Before we are looking at candidates, it will be at least 2 months. Ombudsperson, Staff Services Manager, then there will be three people under Staff Services Manager and then there is an Intake Receptionist. (R.Wood)

4) Public Comment

- a) (D. Beavers) Clarifying question: Received mixed feedback on how we address our Medi-Waiver children, who are receiving ABA services with KRC being the payee for those services? I was told that we cannot transition them into Self-Determination if their services will be paid for by Regional Center. (K. Khuu) If they are getting ABA services funded by their insurances that would not be identified in their budget because that is generic resource as funding for it. That would not delay the transition over into SDP. (D. Beavers) No. Let me re-clarify sorry. When they have straight Medi-Cal Regional Centers the payer for ABA services. So, what I was told is that if you are on straight Medi-Cal receiving ABA services through Regional Center that they cannot be transition to Self-Determination because the way waiver was written under behavioral services with now providing it to a person under twenty one. (K. Khuu) I think we have to discuss this outside of this. (Rick Wood) I have heard this on more than one occasion from other regional centers. What I remember is that does not disqualify people from transitioning or enrolling. What I am going to do is follow up with D. Beavers and let regional center staff what I find out. I am not clear enough on this to be able to say that is not true but I have heard it.
- b) (K. Ramirez) I just wanted to share that as part of the disparity grant we are having a few upcoming trainings. I sent over the flyer to Kern. We have ITT and Purchase of Service training coming up on September 29th in English. Then an IHS desk training in English and Spanish on October 4th we are doing those in collaboration with the Sequoia office with Yolanda Cruz.

5) Approval of Minutes – August 9, 2021

(R.Wood) In 4a DBU is actually DVU Disability Voices United and then in 6 the fourth line it says trail bill and it should be trailer bill. Motion to approve with corrections that Kelly is going to make. Nick (M) Mario (S)

6) Status of SDP (Wood/Kulzer-Reyes)

- 1) (R.Wood) DDS is finally getting the idea that it should and will issue guidance and directives that it has not issue in the past. They are taking on a lot of subjects. Secondly, I requested a

meeting, which occurred about two or two and a half weeks ago with Nancy Bargeman, and I invited Judy Mark at DVU. Kathryn Blakemore who is a consultant to DDS appeared or attend that meeting as well. The purpose of that meeting was to go to DDS and say look there is a lot going on out there that is not coordinated. Each regional center local advisory committee is doing their own thing and not sharing. Speaking of sharing and this is why we had this meeting at a statewide level. The idea was to issue a report so we begin to focus on the best practices. That report is not out and the reason is we elected internally to have a transcript of that 6-hour meeting prepared. That transcript now as of a week ago has been prepared. It has been two months. The department is making edits to the transcript. I have not seen it. So, what it really brought to me was this idea that with all this money that the department has received in the latest budget. It is really time for them to fund Estack.

Funding it in my opinion means having two dedicated staff members to assist in two areas. 1) Basically handle four meetings a year. Three Zoom's and one meeting in person. 2) To have a person work with the work group to establish the agenda and to assist with getting product out. Want to let you know Nancy in response to submit a proposal, a financial proposal to fund the activities of Estack statewide committee.

- 2) What I hear not from our Regional Center by the way but other Regional Center participants is the same old barrios. Things of people standing in the way of them getting in. I am hearing a lot of good thing by way of outreach. We can provide an example for others.
- 3) I am unclear of how we handle the Spanish interpretation of our meeting. (C.Mallinson)
Right now Rick we do it by request. We do publish the agenda with that statement. If you have a need for translation please let us know two weeks before a meeting. We do share it on Constant Contact for sharing for vendors. (M. Gates) We added the feature to our new website to ask people to sign up to get notification. Celia has asked all client services and Service coordinators to get email contact. We can talk about different kinds of ways to communicate this meeting.
- 4) (K.Kulzer) There are two thing in the minutes I want to follow up on. There are two things that Yolanda said she was going to do in the minutes 1) She was going to provide Melanie with the invoice so they could process the payment. That has not happened thank you. 2) Forward a name of someone who was interested in serving on the committee to Cherylle. Neither thing has happened.

7) KRC Updates

- a) (C.Mallinson) Quick announcement my last day for Kern is this Friday but I am not going far. In fact, I am going closer to DVU. I will be at south central regional center doing the same thing. To my left is our new Director of Community Services Enrique Roman I will let him introduce himself. (E.Roman) Introduction.
- b) (M. Waters) Bill from state Council. As of today, this includes the 3 thousand dollars for state council that is earmarked it has not been invoiced. I am going to give an update in regards the two entities that are providing the transition assistance for individuals that are statewide. We got great responses. Allied Comprehensive they are offering for the month of September training session's including person centered planning and how it connects to SDP, Independent facilitation, Individual budget/unmet needs. They are offering Spanish sessions on September 16, 23rd, and 30th from 10am to 12pm. So they offered last month two sessions 4 in total. 2 in English and 2 in Spanish. Spanish is averaging 3 to 6 participants each time. She has sent a new flyer, which is posted on KRC website. October's sessions will be

reposted on all the social media platforms. First Choice Solutions: We had a busy August with 18 unique attendee attending their office hours. They have also assisted with Spanish individuals. Assisted with technology. That is my report. (R.Wood) 2 things 1. One of the issues statewide is that Regional Center think that they have been invoiced and State Council thinks they have. That is one of the topics that I am going to talk to Erin about on Wednesday the 15 because hardly anyone has paid. 2. As you know or may know that I am really in favor in rewriting the orientation. We at DVU want to rewrite it in plain language format that is easier, less lengthy so it is not so intimidating to solve so of the problems that people are having. So, what I am interested in is what happens next if somebody gets referred out because they make contact. I would be interested in the follow up. (Dustlyne) to answer your question Yes often times we get confirmation. We do follow up to see if they have been able to access the orientation. We also provide them with ongoing contacts to reach out back to us. We help lead them through the process.

- c) (K. Khuu/C. Pinal) All you have the excel sheet that I sent out. I have updated it a little bit, because DDS is requesting more crude information on those fully enrolled. What I have been doing is that we get this list and share with program manager to follow up with their staff so they can follow up. (R.Wood) so what are you seeing generally without the specifics about the momentum. Is there momentum developing? I am trying to figure out whether we feel optimistic. Can anybody address generally the momentum issue? (K.Khuu) Continue to talk to our families about SDP at every single of their meeting. It is going to just be word of mouth. (C.Pinal) to give you an idea about the momentum. It seems like we have more families wanting to join SDP minor children verse the adults. So, we will track that because we like to see a little bit of representation in the age groups as well. Spanish speaking families I know we continue to trail a little bit behind verse an English speaking family interested in SDP. We are seeing a little bit more people. Base on the individual's right now that are enrolled LMS orientation. 74 Users, 50 people are enrolled right now in SDP, English speaking 31 have completed the orientation, Spanish speaking we have 13 families enrolled in Spanish and 7 have completed the orientation. We will continue to monitor that. Now at the state level with the trailer bill language KRC got approved for two positions for Participant Choice Coordinator they will be helping out with transitioning to SDP, and getting more support to our staff. We finalize our job description and hopefully we will be posting those positions. They are not case carrying caseloads, they are not caseloads it is more a support. We added quite a bit of SDP into the description. (M. Gates) I want to point out the statue around this is specific it does not allow these to be case carrying positions so none of the Regional Centers should be using them to carry cases. It is supposed to be about the whole realm of any program that allows Participant Choice and that came to the forefront for DDS because of what happened during the pandemic when we wanted to promote. There is funding for 63 positions statewide.

8) Topics for Next Meeting

1. *Call to Order*
2. *Establishment of Quorum*
3. *Additional Agenda Items*
4. *Public Comments*
5. *Approval of Minutes*
6. *Status of SDP (Wood/Kulzer-Reyes)*
 - a) *Update on SD*
7. *KRC Updates (Khuu/Roman)*

- a) KRC SD Updates
 - b) General Updates
 - c) Non-pilot updates
 - d) Nominations for Committee
- 8. Topics for Next Meeting
- 9. Date of Next Meeting
- 10. Adjournment

9) Date of Next Meeting

October 25, 2021

December 06, 2021

10) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm M/S/C (Kulzer-Reyes/ Schneider)